

## CLAIMS

1. A method of issuing a ticket paid for with illegal payment means during a transaction between a user and a ticket vending machine (10), at the end of which  
5 transaction the machine (10) issues a ticket (28R, 28M, 46R, 46M) to the user in exchange for payment using payment means, the machine (10) including means for detecting illegal payment means, and the method being of the type in which the transaction comprises in  
10 succession:
- a payment step (E2) during which the user pays for the ticket (28R, 28M, 46R, 46M) by using a payment means;
  - a checking step (E3) during which the machine (10) checks that the payment means used are regular;
  - 15 • if the payment means are checked as being regular, there follows a printing step (E4R) of printing the ticket, during which a regular ticket (28R, 46R) is printed on a blank ticket or medium; and
  - thereafter the method includes an issuing step  
20 (E5) of issuing the ticket (28R, 46R) to the user;
- the method being characterized in that when the payment means are checked as being illegal, the printed ticket (28M, 46M) is marked in such a manner as to enable the marked ticket (28M, 46M) to be distinguished from a  
25 regular ticket (28R) during an inspection operation.
2. A method according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the ticket (28M) is marked in a manner that is immediately visible.
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3. A method according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the marked ticket (28M) includes at least one additional symbol (40) compared with a regular ticket (28R).
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4. A method according to claim 2 or claim 3,  
characterized in that the marked ticket (28M) includes at  
least one symbol (42) fewer than a regular ticket (28R).
- 5 5. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 4,  
characterized in that the marked ticket (28M) includes at  
least one symbol (44) that is modified compared with a  
regular ticket (28R).
- 10 6. A method according to any preceding claim,  
characterized in that the marked ticket (28M, 46M)  
includes an invisible mark.
- 15 7. A method according to the preceding claim,  
characterized in that the mark is made visible by  
prolonged exposure of the ticket to normal atmospheric or  
light conditions.
- 20 8. A method according to the preceding claim, of the type  
in which the ticket (46R, 46M) carries information stored  
in magnetic form, the method being characterized in that  
the marked ticket (46M) includes special magnetic  
information, and in that the inspection operator is  
performed by a ticket reader.
- 25 9. A vending machine (10) for implementing the method  
according to claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it  
includes means for issuing a warning signal for the  
attention of a supervisor.
- 30 10. A ticket reader according to claim 8, characterized  
in that it includes means for issuing a warning signal  
for the attention of a supervisor.